



# Bulletin board

## At the movies Dec. 7-23

### Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

**Dec. 7** — The Forgotten (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 8** — Mr. 3000 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 9-10** — Resident Evil: Apocalypse (R) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 11** — The Incredibles (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 12** — The Incredibles (PG) 4 p.m.  
Ladder 49 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 13-14** — Ladder 49 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 15-16** — Raise Your Voice (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 17** — The Polar Express (G) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 18** — After The Sunset (PG-13)  
**Dec. 19** — The Polar Express (G) 4 p.m.  
After The Sunset (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 20** — Shark Tale (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 21** — Friday Night Lights (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 22-23** — Taxi (PG-13) 7 p.m.

### Büdingen, Little

**Dec. 10** — Wimbledon (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 11** — Sky Captain And The World Of Tomorrow (PG) 3 p.m.  
**Dec. 17** — Hero (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 18** — The Forgotten (PG-13) 3 p.m.

### Dexheim, Rhein

**Dec. 10** — Ladder 49 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 11** — After The Sunset (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 12** — The Polar Express (G) 3 p.m.  
**Dec. 17** — Friday Night Lights (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 18** — National Treasure (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 19** — Spongebob Squarepants Movie (PG) 3 p.m.

### Friedberg, Old Ironsides

**Dec. 9** — Resident Evil: Apocalypse (R) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 10-11** — Friday Night Lights (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 12** — Raise Your Voice (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 16** — Ladder 49 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 17-18** — Surviving Christmas (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 19** — Shark Tale (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 23** — Taxi (PG-13) 7 p.m.

### Giessen, Skyline

**Dec. 7-8** — Taxi (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 10** — Ladder 49 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 11** — Sky Captain And The World Of Tomorrow (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 12** — First Daughter (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 14-15** — Friday Night Lights (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 17** — Black Cloud (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 18** — Suspect Zero (R) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 19** — Shark Tale (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 21-22** — Surviving Christmas (PG-13) 7 p.m.

### Hanau, Evening Star

**Dec. 7** — The Forgotten (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 8** — Resident Evil: Apocalypse (R) 7 p.m.

**Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the ASG's website (see address below).**



Jack (Joaquin Phoenix) battles an apartment fire to save a young girl in "Ladder 49."

**Dec. 9** — The Forgotten (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 10** — Alexander (R) 4 and 9:30 p.m.  
Christmas With The Kranks (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 11** — Christmas With The Kranks (PG) 4 p.m. Raise Your Voice (PG) 7 p.m.  
Alexander (R) 9:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 12** — Christmas With The Kranks (PG) 4 p.m. Alexander (R) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 13** — Ladder 49 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 14** — First Daughter (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 15** — Raise Your Voice (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 16** — Ladder 49 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 17** — Shark Tale (PG) 4 and 7 p.m.  
Closer (R) 9:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 18** — Friday Night Lights (PG-13) 4 and 7 p.m. Closer (R) 9:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 19** — Shark Tale (PG) 4 p.m. Closer (R) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 20** — Taxi (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 21** — Friday Night Lights (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 22** — Taxi (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 23** — Shark Tale (PG) 7 p.m.

### Rhein Main, Gardens

**Dec. 7** — Spongebob Squarepants Movie (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 8** — National Treasure (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 10** — Raise Your Voice (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 11** — The Incredibles (PG) 5 p.m.  
Ladder 49 (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 12** — First Daughter (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 14** — Alexander (R) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 15-16** — Christmas With The Kranks (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 17** — After The Sunset (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
Taxi (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 18** — The Polar Express (G) 5 p.m.  
Friday Night Lights (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 19** — Shark Tale (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 22** — Closer (R) 7 p.m.

### Wackernheim, McCully

**Dec. 8** — The Incredibles (PG) 6 p.m. The Forgotten (PG-13) 8 p.m.  
**Dec. 15** — After The Sunset (PG-13) 6 p.m.  
Ladder 49 (PG-13) 8 p.m.  
**Dec. 22** — Spongebob Squarepants Movie (PG) 6 p.m. National Treasure (PG) 8

p.m.

### Wiesbaden, Flyers

**Dec. 9** — Ladder 49 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 10** — Resident Evil: Apocalypse (R) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 11** — Spongebob Squarepants Movie (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 16** — Shark Tale (PG) 7 p.m. Christmas With The Kranks (PG) midnight  
**Dec. 17** — Friday Night Lights (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 18** — Taxi (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 23** — Surviving Christmas (PG-13) 7 p.m. Team America: World Police (R) midnight

### Wiesbaden, Taunus

**Dec. 7** — After The Sunset (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 8** — Mr. 3000 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 9** — National Treasure (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 10** — Spongebob Squarepants Movie (PG) 7 p.m. Ladder 49 (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 11** — Spongebob Squarepants Movie (PG) 4 p.m. Raise Your Voice (PG) 7 p.m.  
Ladder 49 (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 12** — First Daughter (PG) 4 p.m.  
National Treasure (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 13** — Ladder 49 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 14** — Raise Your Voice (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 15** — Spongebob Squarepants Movie (PG) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 16** — Alexander (R) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 17** — Shark Tale (PG) 7 p.m. Christmas With The Kranks (PG) 9:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 18** — Shark Tale (PG) 4 p.m. Christmas With The Kranks (PG) 7 p.m. and midnight Friday Night Lights (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.  
**Dec. 19** — Shark Tale (PG) 4 p.m.  
Alexander (R) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 20** — Christmas With The Kranks (PG) 4 p.m. Mr. 3000 (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 21** — Raise Your Voice (PG) 4 p.m.  
Resident Evil: Apocalypse (R) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 22** — Christmas With The Kranks (PG) 4 p.m. Taxi (PG-13) 7 p.m.  
**Dec. 23** — Shark Tale (PG) 4 p.m. Closer (R) 7 p.m.

## Movie plots

### Christmas With The Kranks (PG) —

Tim Allen plays Luther Krank, a man who decides to skip Christmas and all the surrounding trappings and go on a vacation with his wife Nora (Jamie Lee Curtis). But when his daughter decides at the last minute to come home for the holiday, he is forced to put Christmas back together.

**Ladder 49 (PG-13)** — Trapped in a fire that looks likely to kill him, a fireman (Joaquin Phoenix) takes the opportunity to look back over his life, career and marriage, while he waits for his company, Ladder 49, to rescue him, if they can. Also stars John Travolta.

**Alexander (R)** — Oliver Stone's historical saga charts the life of Alexander the Great, who by the age of 32 had amassed the greatest empire the world had ever seen. The film chronicles Alexander's journey to become a living legend, a man who embraced the ideal that power has a destiny. Stars Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie, Anthony Hopkins and Val Kilmer.

**The Polar Express (G)** — Tom Hanks provides his voice for this animated screen adaptation of the popular children's book. Polar Express tells the story of a boy who maintains his belief in Santa Claus despite the teasing of his cynical friends. The boy's conviction is rewarded Christmas Eve when a steam train, guided by Hanks, appears in front of his house and carries him and his disbelieving friends to the North Pole.

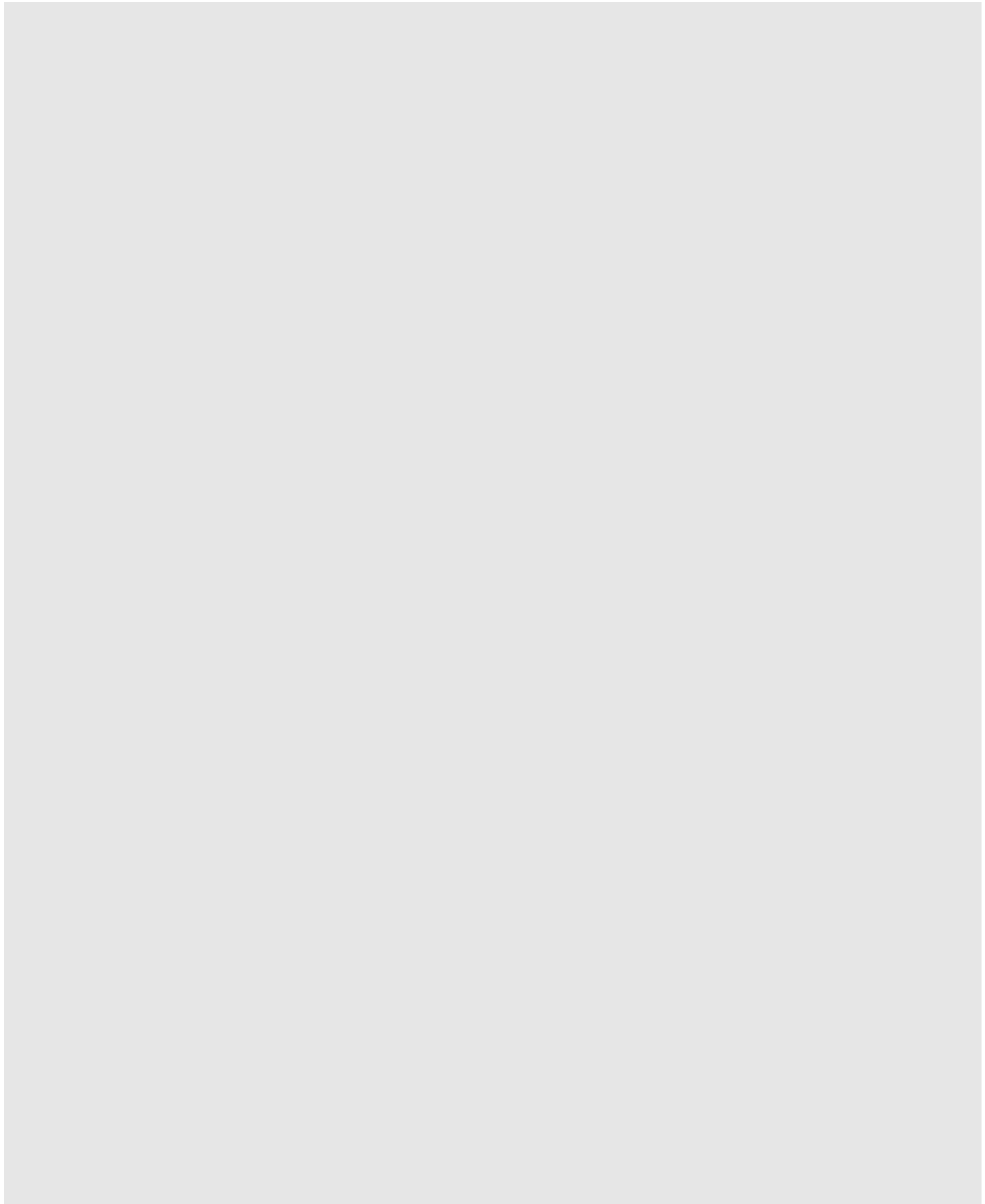
**Surviving Christmas (PG-13)** — Facing another Christmas alone, Drew Latham (Ben Affleck) decides to go back to his childhood home to spend the holidays with family. There's one problem: the people living there now are not Drew's family. Nevertheless Drew has his mind set on an old-fashioned family Christmas. Drew bribes his newfound "parents" (James Gandolfini and Catherine O'Hara) to let him spend Christmas in their home, pretending to be part of the family.

**Spongebob Squarepants Movie (PG)** — Based on the popular children's television series, this animated movie follows the adventures of a sponge who lives at the bottom of the sea in a pineapple and works as a fry cook at a restaurant, his neighbor Squidford and best friend Patrick, a starfish.

**Shark Tale (PG)** — The sea underworld is shaken up when the son of the shark mob boss is found dead and a young fish named Oscar is found at the scene in this animated movie. Being a bottom feeder, Oscar takes advantage of the situation and makes it look like he killed the finned mobster. Oscar soon realizes his claim may have serious consequences. Starring the voices of Will Smith, Robert De Niro, Renee Zellweger, Angelina Jolie, Jack Black and Martin Scorsese.

# *Herald Union classifieds*

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## Close-knit community supports school

### Giessen Elementary back to routine after parents return from Iraq deployment

By Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Getting back into the routine after the return of parents from Iraq while continuing to enjoy a close-knit community atmosphere have been the keys to a successful school year at Giessen Elementary School.

"We're getting back into our routines and helping children feel safe," said Jason Grieve, Giessen Elementary School counselor. "There have been some reintegration challenges, but we're working through them. The children are very resilient. When they see that mom and dad feel safe, then they feel safe. I think the kids are less stressed this year."

"We have the greatest kids," said Barbara Mueller, Giessen Elementary School principal. "They're happy and they work hard. I'm proud of them. They had a difficult year."

"We've had an incredible start to the new school year. We have several new staff members who bring a wealth of experience," Mueller said. "The energy new people bring is always a good thing."

"We have wonderful parent support, command support, community support — and we have the best PTA in the district," added Mueller. "This is my third year here as principal and I love the culture that we've developed. It's a culture of mutual support."

"Giessen Elementary School is a wonderful place," said Christine Hayes, vice president of the Giessen Elementary Parent Teacher Student Association. "It has extremely caring teachers and good teamwork



Sixth-graders Debbie Bustos (from left), Sharees Clemons and Megan Hicks discuss issues with physical education teacher Heide Hurd after a workout in the Giessen Elementary School gym.

Photos by David Ruderman

between the faculty and staff."

With two children attending school there, Hayes said getting involved with the PTSA was only natural. "I want to be part of the children's lives, and this is a great way to make a difference. ... Getting involved has such a big impact on their lives — on their self-esteem. I think there's a lot of positive parental involvement at Giessen Elementary School, but there's always room for more."

Having so many parents back home after serving for more than a year on Operation Iraqi Freedom has helped establish normalcy both at home and in the classroom, Hayes said. "It's wonderful to have them back and to have the family support at home. The teachers really pulled together last year. And the stu-

dents supported each other."

"I think we have a very strong faculty who are dedicated to the education of the students," said Grieve. "A lot of teachers take a special interest to work with the students in this environment. The students have a unique perspective — when your dad's dodging bullets for a living it puts a different spin on things."

"There have been adjustments," said Dr. Jack Piedmonte, a first-grade teacher who has taught at Giessen Elementary for 10 years. "The kids were used to them (parents) being gone and now they're back. The kids seem a lot calmer, and the parents are more involved."

"We get good backup — parental involvement, military and community support," added Piedmonte.

"Part of that is that everyone knows everyone — it's a small community."



Principal Barbara Mueller helps younger students during lunch.

"The teachers are cool," said Victoria Tolleson, a first-grader enjoying a spaghetti lunch in the school cafeteria. "They help us learn."

"I like jump rope and playing on the playground," said her classmate, Alexandra Hayes. "I'm learning how to write cursive. I like eating lunch with my mom and my dad and my brother."

"My favorite thing about school is that we can learn math, words, letters and how to spell right," said first-grader Caleb Garcia, "because spelling helps you read better."

"I like it because you get to learn a lot and you get to play outside," said fellow first-grader Alberto Reyes. "If you learn a lot you get really smart."

"I like the teachers and I like learning numbers," said first-grader Kimberly Harris. "I like all the kids and playing outside. I like to come here everyday."

"That's something we consciously pay attention to," said Mueller, "where kids want to come to school. And these kids do want to come to school."

### School bits

#### Scholarship recipient

Gelnhausen Elementary School Reading Recovery teacher Kim Mitchell has been selected for one of 10 Limited Brand Scholarships to attend the 2005 National Reading Recovery Conference Feb. 5-8 in Columbus, Ohio. She is the first Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe teacher chosen for the prestigious award. (DoDDS-E Public Affairs)

#### Hainerberg events

Hainerberg Elementary's Parent Teacher Organization sponsors a Santa Shop Dec. 7-10 at the school. Students can



shop for teachers, parents and friends with the help of parent volunteers. Items include merchandise from Poland, Italy and Germany. Students can shop from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. everyday. Parents can shop Dec. 9 from 4-6 p.m. Call Raydene Wolney at civ (0670) 3303 868 for more information.

Mr. Figuero's fifth-grade class will feature a winter wonderland Dec. 15 in Room 249 from 5-7 p.m. Admission is one can of food. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there.

#### Early withdrawal

The following early withdrawal dates have been established for school year 2004-2005 for families making a permanent change of

station move. For the first semester, students must attend school all day through Dec. 15 to obtain full credit. For the second semester students must attend all day through May 18 to obtain full credit. The provision is not meant for the convenience of family travel, visits or other discretionary reasons, officials said. Students must present verification of the date of their sponsor's departure or other official orders to school officials in order to receive consideration for full academic credit. Students who withdraw earlier than the above dates get a "withdrawal" grade rather than a final grade. (DoDDS-E Public Affairs)

#### Gelnhausen concert

Gelnhausen Elementary School features a holiday music concert Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. in the

school gym. Students in grades kindergarten to five will sing holiday songs.

#### National assessment

All fourth- and eighth-grade students in Department of Defense schools will participate in National Assessment of Educational Progress (the Nation's Report Card) testing Jan. 24 to March 4. The 2005 NAEP tests will be in reading, mathematics and science with individual students only tested in one subject for no more than 90 minutes. Results are reported at the state level for the Department of Defense Education Activity as a whole. Results for individual students or schools are not reported and a child's grades will not be affected by participation. (DoDDS-Europe Public Affairs)



# Sports and leisure

## Sports shorts

### Bastogne walk

Everyone is invited to take part in the annual Bastogne Perimeter Pilgrimage Walk Dec. 18 in Belgium. Three self-paced routes will be featured — six, 12 or 20 kilometers. The walk officially starts at 8 a.m. in the town square but walks may begin as late as 9:30 a.m. Two rest stop cafes along the route will offer hot drinks and sandwiches for sale. Free hot chocolate and soup will also be available along the route. Cost is €3.50 including walker's insurance, a certificate of participation and a small souvenir. Late registration will be held at the tavern "L'Europa" on the town square from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Dec. 18. For information visit [www.bastogne.be](http://www.bastogne.be) or send an email to [sb325983@skynet.be](mailto:sb325983@skynet.be).

### Baumholder boxing

Boxers are invited to compete in Baumholder's Hall of Champions Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. Physicals and weigh-ins are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Doors open to spectators at 5:30 p.m. Spectator admission is \$4. Call mil 485-6671 or 7176 for details.

### Rock Fun Run

Baumholder Sports holds a Rock Fun Run Dec. 11 starting at 9 a.m. Cost is \$10 and runners must be at least 18 years old to participate. Call mil 485-6671 or 7176 for more information.

### Racquetball Invitational

Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center holds a Racquetball Invitational Dec. 18-19. Register from 8-10 a.m. Entry is \$20 including a commemorative T-shirt. Call mil 343-7201 or civ (0641) 402-7201 for details.

### Massage specials

Holiday health and wellness gift certificates for Swedish massages, peppermint leg and foot treatments and hot stone massage therapy are available through Team 221st Sports and Fitness. Call civ (0160) 640 5187 or (0179) 903 6996.

### Holiday Olympics

Free three-on-three basketball, racquetball, table tennis, bench press, card and chess competitions will be held at 414th Base Support Battalion fitness centers Dec. 13-30. Call local fitness centers for details.

## Deadline looms for Soldier Show

By Tim Hipps  
Army News Service

The deadline is approaching for Soldiers to apply for auditions in the 2005 U.S. Army Soldier Show — a high-energy conglomeration of music, song and dance scheduled to tour for six months.

Nominations are being accepted for vocalists, dancers, musicians and specialty acts. Lighting, audio, video, costume and stage technicians are also needed.

Active-duty, National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers are eligible to apply for a Soldier Show audition. Nominations must include name, rank, Social Security number, unit address, duty phone number, email address, and areas of specialty for performers (singer, dancer, etc.) or areas of specialty for technicians (lighting, audio, carpentry, electrical, etc.). A Department of the Army photo is required, along with a copy of the nominee's enlisted or officer record brief.

Performer nominees must submit a video cassette or DVD illustrating musical styles, vocal range and special talents, with emphasis on musical variety. The following format is recommended: a spoken introduction, a minimum of two songs of contrasting styles and a segment devoted to additional talents such as dance or instrumental performance. Musician nominees must also submit an audio tape of high quality.

For technician nominees, a technical experience resume including

experience in sound, lighting, construction, carpentry and stage management must be submitted. Performers also may include technical expertise in their resumes.

All applicants must have a letter of release from their respective commands and they must be deployable worldwide. Applicants also must have a minimum of 90 days of service remaining upon conclusion of the tour.

Nominees must meet height and weight standards in accordance with AR 600-9, and a copy of the Soldier's most recent Army physical fitness test must be provided. Profiles will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Video auditions and technical reviews will be assessed in mid-January, and finalists will be notified by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center and U.S. Army Entertainment Division through their respective regional

headquarters. Units and installations will also receive a copy of the notification.

Units and/or installations must confirm their Soldiers' availability by Feb. 6 directly to CFSC/AED with an information copy furnished to the respective regional headquarters. Temporary duty orders will be issued and all costs will be paid by CFSC for travel to the final audition at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Attachment orders to AED for those selected for the Army Soldier Show will be issued by CFSC. Those not selected for the Army Soldier Show will be returned to their respective units.

Soldiers selected for the 2005 Army Soldier Show are required to have change of duty or change of rater evaluation reports completed before departure from their unit.

Nominations should be mailed to U.S. Army Soldier Show, Attention: 2005 Selection Committee, P.O.



U.S. Army photo

Pfc. Heather Jenkins and Staff Sgt. Charles Howard perform a number with fellow Soldiers during the 2004 Army Soldier Show tour. The deadline to audition for next year's show is approaching.

Box 439, Fort Belvoir, VA, 22060.

Artistic inquiries may be sent to Army Soldier Show artistic director Victor Hurtado at [Victor.Hurtado@cfsc.army.mil](mailto:Victor.Hurtado@cfsc.army.mil). Military questions should be directed to 1st Sgt. Stanley Randolph at (703) 806-4937 or mil 656-4937.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is Army Entertainment Division's premiere production. The modern version debuted in 1983, performing as part of the inaugural entertainment for President Ronald Reagan.

The 21st century version is a 90-minute,

high-energy musical review featuring at least two dozen of the Army's most talented and experienced singers, dancers, musicians and technicians. All go through a rigorous audition process that begins in January and ends with live auditions in March. In six weeks the Soldiers will learn as many as 65 songs and choreography for about 40 segments, including solos, duets, small groups and full-cast production numbers. Costumers, set designers, lighting and audio technicians work side-by-side to assemble the production.

The show opens during the spring at Fort Belvoir, then tours for six months, performing as many as 100 shows at more than 50 locations in the U.S. and overseas for audiences totaling more than 100,000 spectators. (Tim Hipps writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office)

## Things to do ... Things to do ... Things to do

### Ronneburg Christmas Market

Ronneburg Castle, situated between Langenselbold and Büdingen, holds its annual Medieval Christmas Markets Dec. 11-12 and 18-19. The event features everything from age-old handicrafts to holiday music and children's recreation.

### Christmas Jam

The "Word Alive" Christian Fellowship holds its Word Alive Christmas Jam Dec. 29 from 8 p.m. to midnight at Hanau's Club I on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Cameron Warner will be featured. For information and tickets call Aryne White at civ (0175) 488 6173 or Kim Robinson at civ (0175) 1936 056.

Frankfurt's Internationales Theater presents the holiday comedy "Merry Gentlemen" Dec. 9-11 and 16-18 at 8 p.m. The theater is located at Hanauer Landstr. 5-7. Reserve tickets by calling civ (069) 499 0980.

### Theater highlights

Hanau's Five Pfennig Playhouse presents the Christmas comedy, "Sorry, Wrong Chimney," Dec. 9-11 and 16-18 at 7:30 p.m. Pick up tickets at the Hanau USO or call mil 322-8725.

Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart

Playhouse presents "Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas," a celebration of the holidays in story and song, Dec. 9-12. Performances start at 7:30 p.m. except on Sundays when they begin at 6 p.m. Call mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473 for reservations.

Frankfurt's English Theater presents "Cabaret" through Feb. 12. Shows are Tuesday to Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m. Call civ (069) 2423 1620 for reservations. The theater is located at Kaiserstr. 34 in Frankfurt.

Giessen's Keller Theater presents "Little Women" Dec. 9-11 and 16-18. Call mil 343-6515 Wednesdays to Fridays from 4:30-8 p.m. for reservations.

### Brunch with Santa

Wiesbaden's Community Activity Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield features brunch with Santa Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$12.95 or half price for children age 12 and younger. Children will receive a small gift from Santa. Make reservations for parties of 10 or more. Call mil 337-5750.





# Sports and leisure

## Bandsman claims third Dexheim biathlon win

**Despite muddy challenge, Martinelli wins 30-K race again**

Story and photos  
by Karl Weisel  
104th Area Support Group Public  
Affairs Office

Maybe they should change the name of the Dexheim biathlon to the Benjamin Martinelli Invitational.

The U.S. Army Europe Band clarinetist has claimed the top spot at Dexheim's 30-kilometer bicycle and running event three times in a row — this time wrapping up his victory in a time of one hour and just over 25 minutes Nov. 20. He won last year's Dexheim Turkey Trot/Biathlon in 1:32:06 and had his fastest finish this spring crossing the finish line in 1:15:42.

"I had a great race," said Martinelli, who compared this year's Turkey Trot to last year's course conditions. "Last year the Turkey Trot was pretty muddy too. It makes it fun. This is a great group of racers who come out."

While the mud only seemed to slow the Heidelberg-based athlete down slightly, other competitors dealt with mud-clogged brakes and wheels forcing them to stop pedaling in places and to hoist bikes onto shoulders for stretches at a time.

"I like this course — it's really well marked," said Martinelli. "Half the course you've got the wind in your face and the second half the wind is at your back and you're really flying."

Despite the biting cold, 14 men and two women turned out for the Dexheim race which involves two 10-kilometer cycle laps and one 10-K running loop through the fields and vineyards behind Anderson



Benjamin Martinelli leads cyclists at the start of the Dexheim 30-kilometer Turkey Trot/Biathlon. Competitors made two laps on bicycles followed by a running lap through the fields and vineyards surrounding Anderson Barracks. Martinelli finished in one hour, 25 minutes and three seconds.

Barracks. The low temperatures and possibility of snow in the forecast may have kept more competitors from participating, said Nathan Evans, Dexheim sports and fitness coordinator, who said he "expected at least 30."

Besides the glory, winners in each category took home a turkey.

"These guys (race organizers) do a fantastic job," said Martinelli, "and winning a turkey — that's really great. My wife told me, 'you better win, because I want that turkey.'"

"This race was outstanding — it was muddy, but outstanding," said Jacob Truex, of Hanau's Company B, 127th Aviation Support Battalion. The second athlete to finish, in a time of 1:29:13, Truex said he's competed in several races in recent months, including a duathlon in Hanau, to try to improve his times.

"I've improved tons," said Truex, who missed the chance to compete in the USAREUR 10 Miler while serving with 1st Armored Division in Iraq. "I run all the time

and have won a few races. ... I was very impressed today — it was a tough race. Next year I'm going to try to be the top USAREUR 10 Miler."

Dexheim's Morgan Montano, 123rd Main Support Battalion, was the third overall winner, finishing in 1:35:07 and claiming first place in the Men's Seniors (age 30-39) group. He was followed by Walter Johnston at 1:40:25, second in that category.

Jennifer Sprague, in the women's age 25 and under category, was the first female athlete to cross the finish line in a time of 2:10:39. Second for the women, in the age 26-32 category, was Lori Nix at 2:32:42.

In the Men's Submasters category Larry Purdue was the fastest after 30 kilometers winding up with a time of 1:46:52. Second in the category was Randy Austin at 2:17:50.

Mark Word took the Men's Masters (age 50 plus) trophy with a time of 2:11:05. He was followed by Frank Ernst at 2:40:39.



Jennifer Sprague shows off her mud proudly on the way to first place for the women.



Hanau's Jacob Truex keeps pushing as he nears the 10-K mark.